

Amendments to the Claims

Please add new claims 6-8 and amend the remaining claims as shown below in the Listing of Claims.

Listing of Claims

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) A silica glass characterized by the following specific properties:
 - a) light internal transmittance in the wave length between 185nm and 193nm higher than 85%;
 - b) light internal transmittance in the wave length between 193nm and 2600nm higher than 99.5%;
 - c) light internal transmittance in the wave length between 2600nm and 2730nm higher than 99%;
 - d) light internal transmittance in the wave length between 2730nm and 3200nm higher than 85%;
 - e) no streak, material of class 4 or better according to the rule DIN ISO 10110-4;
 - f) no strip;
 - g) ~~no signal in the shadeography~~ (no shadow or intensity change[[I]]);and wherein said silica glass is made by a sol gel process.
3. (Currently amended) The silica glass of claim 2, wherein said sol gel process includes a step in which ~~said sol~~ a dried gel is thermally treated at a temperature of 800°C-1500°C to increase its density.
4. (Currently amended) The silica ~~gel~~ glass of claim 3, wherein thermal treatment is carried out in a controlled atmosphere containing traces of water.

5. (Currently amended) The silica ~~gel~~ glass of claim 4, wherein said sol gel process further comprises the steps of:
 - a) preparing a ~~sol from a~~ solution comprising silicon ~~alco~~oxide alkoxide;
 - b) ~~allowing or inducing the hydrolysis of the sol~~ performing an acid or base catalyzed hydrolysis of the solution prepared in step a) to form a sol;
 - c) performing a polycondensation of the sol of step b) to form a gel;
 - e) d) drying the gel obtained in step ~~b~~ c).
6. (New) The silica glass of claim 5, wherein the polycondensation of step c) is performed on a sol consisting of the sol of in step b).
7. (New) The silica glass of claim 1, wherein said sol gel process consists of:
 - a) preparing a solution or suspension containing silicon alkoxides;
 - b) performing an acid or base catalyzed hydrolysis of said silicon alkoxides to form a sol;
 - c) performing a polycondensation of the hydrolyzed silicon alkoxides of step b) to form a gel;
 - d) drying the gel of step c) to form a solid body;
 - e) treating the solid body of step d) at a temperature of 800°C-1500°C to increase its density.
8. (New) The silica glass of claim 6, wherein the treatment of step e) is carried out in a controlled atmosphere containing traces of water.